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of the controversy, the officials have surrounded the matter with the greatest secrecy.

It can be stated, however, that the charges come under four main heads, viz., that the accused resorted to intriguing methods to bring about the administration of affairs which he desired; that he made statements as coming from Captain Davis which that officer controverts; that he threatened the superintendent with attacks upon the floor of Congress, and neglect of duty.

For the present the action of the Navy Department awaits the course that Professor Brown may adopt on the copy of the charges which has been laid before him.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

WE record with much regret the death of Dr. George Mercer Dawson, director of the Geological Survey of Canada, which occurred on March 2d, after an illness of only two days.

DR. SAMUEL W. STRATTON has been appointed by President McKinley director of the newly established National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Stratton is professor of physics in the University of Chicago, but has, for the past year, had leave of absence to take charge of the Office of Standard Weights and Measures.

THE President has also appointed a Board of Visitors to the U. S. Naval Observatory, in accordance with the provisions of recent legislation, as follows: St. Clair McKelway, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Asaph Hall, Jr., of Ann Arbor, Mich.; William R. Harper, of Chicago; Edward C. Pickering, of Cambridge, Mass.; Charles A. Young, of Princeton, N. J.; Ormond Stone, of Charlottesville, Va.

DR. ROBERT BELL, one of the assistant directors of the Geological Survey of Canada, has been appointed director in succession to the late Dr. George M. Dawson.

MR. J. E. SPURR, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has accepted an invitation of the Turkish Government to make an investigation of the mineral resources of the country.

DR. W. B. SCOTT, professor of geology in Princeton University, expects to leave in May for South America in the interests of the work carried on in Patagonia by several Princeton expeditions.

MR. W. H. FISK, of Durham, N. C., has

been appointed assistant State entomologist of Georgia.

SIGNOR MARCONI was one of the passengers on the *Majestic* which left Liverpool for New York on March 6th.

AT the annual meeting of the Hunterian Society, London, on February 13th, Dr. J. Dundas Grant was elected president of the Society. The annual address was given by Mr. John Poland, who gave a retrospect of surgery during the last century.

ON account of ill-health Dr. Frank Russell has been compelled to omit some of his courses in anthropology at Harvard University, and to relinquish others to another instructor. Having been ordered to a more healthful climate he will occupy the year of exile in carrying on archeological investigations in the Southwest.

PROFESSOR GEORGE S. WILKINS, C.E., professor of engineering at the University of Alabama, has been made Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French Government for services on the International Jury of Awards of the Paris exposition. Professor Wilkins was expert of the department of civil engineering and transportation for the commissioner general of the United States at this exposition. He was also the official United States delegate to the following International congresses: Tramways, Applied Mechanics, Technical and Industrial Education and Acetylene Gas.

IN memory of the late Dr. Walter Myers, whose life was sacrificed in the study of yellow fever, a chair of tropical medicine has been endowed in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, to be called the Walter Myers' chair. A gravestone will be erected where Dr. Myers is buried in Brazil, and a memorial plate will be placed in the Birmingham Hospital.

DR. JOHN MINOT RICE died at his home in Northboro', Mass., on March 2d, at the age of 68 years. He was a graduate of the Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard University, and was appointed professor of mathematics at the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1870.

THERE will be a civil service examination for the position of topographic draughtsman in the office of the surveyor general at San Francisco.

The salary is \$1,200, and the examination is on geographic projections, mathematics, and topographic drawing and lettering.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has offered the following sums for library buildings, on condition that the cities mentioned shall provide the cities and ten per cent. of the cost of the buildings annually for maintenance: Richmond, Va., \$100,000; Montgomery, Ala., \$50,000; St. Joseph, Mo., \$25,000; Johnstown, N. Y., \$20,000; Ashtabula, Ohio, \$15,000.

MR. HENRY H. ROGERS, of New York, has presented to the Millicent Library of Fairhaven, Mass., the water-works of that town, yielding an annual income of about \$8,000. The Millicent Library was given to the town of Fairhaven in January, 1893, by the children of Mr. Rogers, in memory of their sister Millicent G. Rogers.

By the will of Dr. Abbott Hodgman, his library is given to the New York Academy of Medicine.

THE Milwaukee Public Museum has just acquired the Rud. J. Nunnemacher collection, containing a large series of Buddhist, Confucian, Taonist and other divinities from China, Japan, India, Burma, Siam and Northern Thibet, in terra cotta, wood, bronze and brass.

We learn from the *Astronomical Journal* that Mr. A. F. Lindemann, of Sidmouth, England, has placed means at the disposition of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* to be administered by a committee consisting of H. Seeliger, E. Weiss, G. Müller and H. Kreutz for the purpose of accelerating the work of calculation of comet-material from ancient times to the middle of the nineteenth century. The conditions are briefly as follows: An average amount of 100 Marks (about \$24) will be paid for definitive calculation of the orbit of one of these comets, the award being lower for those requiring a relatively small amount of time and higher for those presenting especial difficulty. The award will be made to the first calculation which sufficed the requirements of a definitive computation, but may be divided in case of simultaneous determinations. The committee will decide in each case whether the requirements are met and the amount of payment. A list of these

comets, some seventy in number, may be obtained from Dr. Kreutz, who should be communicated with, in order that duplicate calculations may be avoided.

THE officers of Section D—Mechanical Science and Engineering—American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor Henry S. Jacoby and Mr. William Harry Jacks, have issued a circular in regard to the Denver meeting. It reads in part.

The subjects which are appropriate for the Section relate more especially to the application of science and of scientific methods to the various engineering problems.

It has been suggested that short papers be presented, giving information regarding the following questions: Have you any experimental data which either confirm or throw doubt upon formulas or constants hitherto generally received? Have you any data upon subjects hitherto considered doubtful, as for example, the strength of unstayed surfaces? What subjects should engineering laboratories undertake to investigate with a view to obtaining data which will be of general importance, and how would you propose to make such tests (including a description of the apparatus)?

It is hoped that many brief résumés of investigations or experiments relating to different subjects of interest to the Section may be offered for this meeting, and that the support of the Section will be shown by the offer of a larger number of appropriate papers than usual, especially by the Western members who have long urged a meeting in the far West.

THE fifth annual meeting of the New York State Audubon Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History on the afternoon of March 8th. Addresses were announced by Dr. Frank M. Chapman of the Museum, Dr. T. S. Palmer, assistant-chief of the U. S. Biological Survey and Mr. Charles R. Skinner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

IN order to aid in the extension and further equipment of the Scientific Department, of Manhattan College, New York City, Dr. J. M. Ferrer and a committee of the alumni society have organized a course of five evening lectures to be given in Carnegie Lyceum during the month of April. They have secured the cooperation of men eminent in their respective departments, as will be seen from the following syllabus:

April 10—'Meteors and Meteorites,' by Professor M. F. O'Reilly, D.Sc., London.

April 16—'Development of Artillery in the Nineteenth Century,' by Captain Edward L. Zalinski, U. S. A.

April 22—'Submarine Boats,' by Mr. John P. Holland.

April 25—'The Steam Engine and its Rivals,' by Professor R. H. Thurston, of Cornell.

April 30—'Electric Wave Transmission,' by Professor Michael I. Pupin, of Columbia.

The lectures will be illustrated with stereopticon views. Professor Pupin will further illustrate his lecture by experiments with apparatus used by him in the researches which have led to his recently announced discoveries in connection with the transmission of speech over long-distance telephones and submarine cables.

At the International Congress on Tuberculosis to be held in London in July, addresses will be delivered by Professor Robert Koch, Professor Brouardel, dean of the medical faculty of the University of Paris, and by Professor McFadyean, principal of the Royal Veterinary College, London.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. HIRAM SIBLEY, JR., has given Cornell University \$85,000, for an addition to the Sibley College of Engineering. It will connect the two present buildings, and give them a frontage on the campus nearly 400 feet in length.

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has given \$110,000 to Vassar College for the erection of a residence hall similar to the residence hall now being built on the college grounds.

MRS. L. M. PALMER, widow of Dr. A. B. Palmer, for many years professor in the medical department in the University of Michigan, has by the terms of her will left \$85,000 to the University, mostly, it is understood, for the benefit of the hospital.

THE District Court at Denver has sustained the will of the late George W. Clayton, who bequeathed most of his estate, valued at more than \$2,000,000, to the city of Denver for a college for orphan boys, similar to Girard College, Philadelphia.

THE following statement has been issued in regard to the consolidation of the Chicago Institute with the University of Chicago: "The Chicago Institute is to become a professional school of the University of Chicago, and will include a school of pedagogy and an elementary school and kindergarten. Associated with it will be a secondary or high school, for the present under the leadership of Dr. John Dewey of the university, ultimately, however, to become a part of the Chicago Institute. Colonel Parker is to be the head of the institute, and his successors are to be appointed by the university trustees upon the nomination of the Chicago Institute trustees. With the institute the university receives \$1,000,000. Part of this is to be used in furnishing a home and equipment for the institute, and the rest is to be devoted, chiefly as an endowment fund, to the maintenance of the institute. The university expects to expend from its own funds between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a year for the support of the work."

It is expected that the Hall of Fame of New York University will be formally inaugurated on May 30th.

OWING to the increase in the number of Assembly districts in the State of New York, Cornell University will hereafter provide 150 free scholarships each year in the place of 128. To educate the 600 students holding these scholarships costs, as President Shurman has pointed out, \$180,000, whereas the University received in return a land grant from which the annual income is but \$35,000.

DR. W. T. JORDAN, of the University of Tennessee, has been offered the presidency of the University of Alabama.

AT Columbia University the following promotions have been made: M. I. Pupin, professor of electro-mechanics; Marston Taylor Bogert, adjunct professor of organic chemistry; Edmund H. Miller, adjunct professor of analytical chemistry and assaying; S. L. R. Morgan, adjunct professor of physical chemistry; Livingston Farrand, adjunct professor of psychology, and Edward Thorndike, adjunct professor of genetic psychology.